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composition; and said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_1 in said dark ink composition and said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_2 in said light ink composition being different from each other, wherein a relationship between said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_1 in said dark ink composition and said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_2 in said light ink composition is $E_1 > E_2$.

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Claim 22 (twice amended) An ink jet recording method comprising providing the ink set according to claim 14, and depositing said ink set on ink jet recording paper to form text and/or images on the ink jet recording paper.

Claim 23 (twice amended) An ink jet recording method for performing printing by discharging liquid drops of the ink composition according to claim 1 and causing said ink drops to adhere to a recording medium.

REMARKS

The Official Action of February 6, 2003 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error (omission of Tables 1 and 2) in the translation from the Japanese of the international application (PCT/JP00/09354). Support for the amendment to the specification appears in the international application as filed. Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of the international application, which can serve as a substitute specification if the Examiner desires.

Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph appearing at paragraph 2 of the Official Action. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the disclosure in the specification as filed at, for example, page 18, lines 17-18; page 20, lines 16-18 and the Examples, including Embodiment 3 on pages 57-60, wherein the ink compositions comprise resin emulsions. Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitations formerly in claim 6, and claim 6 has been canceled.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 23-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Takemoto et al (paragraph 4 of the Official Action), while other of the claims have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takemoto et al in view of one or more other references (paragraphs 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Official Action). Claims 5, 7-10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Adkins et al (paragraph 5 of the Official Action), while other of the claims have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Adkins et al in view of Miyabayashi et al (paragraph 13 of the Official Action) or in view of Miyabayashi et al and further in view of another reference (paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Official Action). Claims 1, 3 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 879857 (paragraph 6 of the Official Action). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

At the outset, the undersigned provides the following statements on behalf of Applicants in accordance with the provisions of MPEP Section 706.02(1)(2):

THE PRESENT APPLICATION AND TAKEMOTO US PATENT 6,075,069 WERE, AT THE TIME THE INVENTION OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION WAS MADE, OWNED BY OR SUBJECT TO AN OBLIGATION OF ASSIGNMENT TO SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION.

THE PRESENT APPLICATION AND MIYABAYASHI ET AL US PATENT 6,271,285 WERE, AT THE TIME THE INVENTION OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION WAS MADE, OWNED BY OR SUBJECT TO AN OBLIGATION OF ASSIGNMENT TO SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION.

Under the provisions of 35 USC 103(c), and in view of the common ownership indicated above, the Takemoto and Miyabayashi et al references are disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under the provisions of 35 USC 103 (see MPEP Section 706.02(I)(1)). Accordingly, and since each of the rejections under 35 USC 103 relies on either the Takemoto or Miyabayashi et al references, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are not applicable and should be withdrawn.

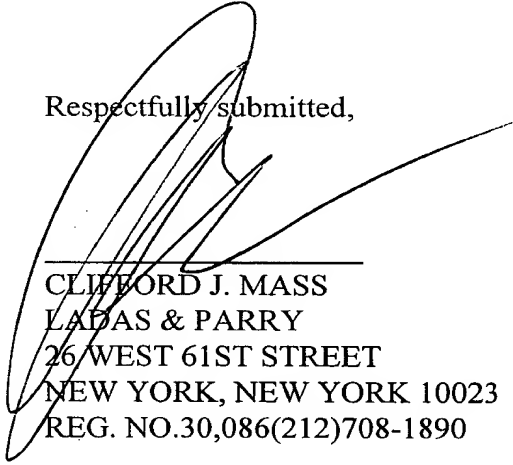
With respect to the rejections under 35 USC 102 pertaining to claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, Applicants respectfully note that the applicable references (Takemoto et al and EP 879857) do not show or suggest an ink composition comprising a resin emulsion as claimed such that these references do not anticipate these claims under the provisions of 35 USC 102. With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 102 pertaining to claim 5 and the claims depending therefrom, Applicants respectfully note that this rejection was not applied to the recitations in

claim 6, which have now been incorporated into claim 5. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 5 is respectfully believed to overcome this rejection.

With respect to claim 14 and the claims depending therefrom, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not rejected these claims under 35 USC 102 and, indeed, she has recognized that the primary reference applied against these claims, Adkins et al, does not show or suggest an emulsion as claimed. None of the other references that are citable against the claimed invention shows or suggests the claimed emulsion or the combination thereof with the Adkins et al compositions to arrive at the invention defined in claim 14 or the claims depending therefrom.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been successfully traversed and that the application is in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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Claim 1 (amended) An ink set comprising a dark ink composition and a light ink composition that[, while being] are mutually of a same color, but are of different color density; [characterized in that:] said dark ink composition and said light ink composition each containing at least [contains] a pigment as a colorant, [and] a resin as a dispersant and a resin emulsion comprising a resin component, the resin component of each of said light ink and dark ink compositions being present in each of the respective ink compositions in an amount of 0.1 to 40 wt %; a ratio between resin weight proportion B_1 and pigment weight proportion P_1 (B_1/P_1) in said dark ink composition being [is] lower than a ratio between resin weight proportion B_2 and pigment weight proportion P_2 (B_2/P_2) in said light ink composition; and said resin weight proportion B_1 in said dark ink composition and said resin weight proportion B_2 in said light ink composition being different [differ] from each other.

Claim 5 (amended) An ink set comprising a dark ink composition and a light ink composition that[, while being] are mutually of a same color, but are of different color density; [characterized in that:] said dark ink composition and said light ink composition each containing at least [contains] a pigment as a colorant and fine polymer particles; a ratio between a fine polymer particle weight proportion E_1 and a pigment weight proportion P_1 (E_1/P_1) in said dark ink composition [is] being lower than a ratio between a fine polymer particle weight proportion E_2 and a pigment weight proportion P_2 (E_2/P_2) in said light ink composition; and said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_1 in said dark ink composition and said fine polymer

particle weight proportion E_2 in said light ink composition being different [differ] from each other, wherein a relationship between said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_1 in said dark ink composition and said fine polymer particle weight proportion E_2 in said light ink composition is $E_1 > E_2$.

Claim 22 (twice amended) [The] An ink jet recording method comprising providing the ink set according to claim 14, [characterized in that] and depositing said ink set on ink jet recording paper to form [is used in forming] text and/or images on the [special] ink jet recording paper.

Claim 23 (twice amended) An ink jet recording method for performing printing by discharging liquid drops of [an] the ink composition according to claim 1 and causing said ink drops to adhere to a recording medium[, characterized in that:

the ink composition of any of the ink sets cited in claim 1 is used as said ink composition].